

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-02

SSO-00 INRE-00 /032 W

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O 102130Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2120

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0902

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, SCUL, US

SUBJ: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 0883; (B) KARKASHIAN/STOUT TELCONS FEB 8

1. SUMMARY. MEETING DESCRIBED REFTEL HELD FEB 10 AS SCHEDULED WITH INCONCLUSIVE RESULT. JULIO PHILIPPI APPOINTED TO "MEDIATE" DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY WAS NOT ABLE TO MAKE APPROACH TO FONMINISTER ON ST. GEORGE'S AS INSTRUCTED (REF B) DESPITE OUR URGENT REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENT. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE CARVAJAL WAS MADE AWARE BY HIS STAFF OF OUR INTEREST IN ST. GEORGE'S AND SPECIFICALLY IN TODAY'S MEETING.

3. FATHER DONOSO TELEPHONED THIS AFTERNOON FEB 10 TO REPORT HOUR-LONG MEETING WAS HELD AS SCHEDULED. ATTENDING WERE THOSE LISTED IN REFTEL MINUS SENIOR CHILEAN CLERGYMAN, PLUS UNDER SEC EDUCATION RETAMAL, GOC DELEGATE-INTERVENTOR AT ST. GEORGE'S COMANDANTE VERDUGO, AND JULIO PHILIPPI.

4. MINED CASTRO REPORTEDLY MADE RESUME OF ST. GEORGE'S PROBLEM; DONOSO REITERATED HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION'S POINTS OF VIEW; NUNCIO EMPHASIZED INTEREST OF CHURCH IN SPEEDY AND AMICABLE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM, AND VERDUGO REPORTED ON CURRENT STATUS OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION. FONMIN CARVAJAL URGED ALL TO LOOK TO FUTURE AND SAID BEST
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SOLUTION APPEARED TO BE RETURN OF SCHOOL TO HOLY CROSS.

5. PINOCHET SAID HE ALWAYS WANTED A POSITIVE SOLUTION TBU PROBLEM, AND NOTED "FOREIGN PRESSURE" ON ISSUE. ACCORDING TO DONOSO, PINOCHET SAID GOC WOULD RETURN THE SCHOOL TO HOLY CROSS, BUT NOT RIGHT NOW DUE TO "INTERNAL REASONS." HE SAID A NEW RECOTOR SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY HOLY CROSS, AND GOC WOULD NAME NEW DELEGATE WHO WOULD CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER SCHOOL FOR AT LEAST THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. CONSIDERABLE INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON DEFINITION OF RESPECTIVE ROLES OF RECTOR AND GOC DELEGATE.

6. DONOSO ASKED THAT WRITTEN MINUTES OF THIS MEETING BE PREPARED, AND PINOCHET TOLD RETAMAL TO DO SO.

7. PINOCHET ALSO ASKED PHILIPPI TO ACT AS "MEDIATOR" IN DISPUTE, AND HE AGREED. DONOSO PLANS TO HAVE A LONG TALK WITH HIM ASAP.

8. COMMENT. DONOSO NOTED, AND WE AGREE, THAT BASIC SITUATION DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THIS UNUSUAL HIGH-LEVEL SESSION. DONOSO COMMENTED THAT RESULT IS ABOUT LIKE THAT OF LAST ROUND, WHEN PROVINCIAL LEWERS SAW PINOCHET IN EARLY JANUARY AND OUTCOME WAS ALSO INCONCLUSIVE. HOWEVER, DONOSO SAID, NUNCIO IS OPTIMISTIC. BASIC PROBLEM AT THIS POINT APPEARS TO BE DEFINITION OF POWERS OF ANY EVENTUAL HOLY CROSS RECTOR VIS A VIS. GOC DELEGATE--I.E. WHO REALLY RUNS THE SCHOOL DURING INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE IT IS FORMALLY RETURNED TO HOLY CROSS.

9. PHILIPPI IS ONE OF CHILE'S MOST RESPECTED LAWYERS. DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED COPPER MINES HE PROVED HIMSELF A HARD BARGAINER, BUT EMINENTLY FAIR.

10. WE FIND GROUNDS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT IN FACTS THAT, FOR FIRST TIME, GOC MODERATES AND PAPAL NUNCIO PARTICIPATED IN MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT; AND THE PHILIPPI HAS BEEN GIVEN A KEY ROLE IN WORKING OUT A SETTLEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, CHURCH SCHOOLS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA00902
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750048-0479
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750257/aaaabyyy.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANTIAGO 0883
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, SEDU, CI, US, ST GEORGES SCHOOL, HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION, (PINOCHET UGARTE, AUGUSTO), (DONOSO, FERMIN), (CARVAJAL PRADO, PATRICIO), (CASTRO JIMENEZ, HUGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006